

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 CU-02

AID-05 DHA-02 IO-13 /074 W  
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R 262007Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6493

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, SHUM, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: CHURCH LEADERS CALL ON PRESIDENT VIDELA

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 4797; (B) BUENOS AIRES 4617

1. CARDINALS ARAMBURU AND PRIMATESTA, WITH OTHER HIGH CHURCHMEN OF EXECUTIVE COMMISSION OF CATHOLIC EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE, CALLED ON PRESIDENT VIDELA JULY 22 TO RECEIVE RESPONSE TO MESSAGE SENT TO JUNTA BY COMMISSION ON JULY 7. IN THAT MESSAGE THE CHURCH HAD EXPRESSED ALARM AND CONCERN OVER VIOLENCE IN ARGENTINA, BY INFERENCE ESPECIALLY KILLING OF FIVE PRIESTS JULY 4.

2. WRITTEN REPLY TO CHURCH MESSAGE HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, VIDELA IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE AVOIDED SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DEATHS OF PRIESTS, INCLUDING TWO MORE KILLED JULY 21 (REFTEL). HE ALLEGEDLY RECOGNIZED CHURCH CONCERN OVER VIOLENCE, AND INSISTED ON THEORY THAT THERE IS PLOT TO DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN CHURCH AND GOA. QUESTION OF DETAINEES AND LACK OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THEM WAS ALSO REPORTEDLY RAISED.

3. AFTER MEETING, INTERIOR MINISTRY RELEASED STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS RUMORS CIRCULATING ABOUT  
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DETENTIONS OF LARGE NUMBERS OF PRIESTS. MINISTRY RELEASE

SAID THAT TEN PRIESTS ARE DETAINED, SIX OF WHOM WERE DETAINED UNDER PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT BEFORE MILITARY TOOK POWER ON MARCH 24.

4. COMMENT. IN PRIVATE, CHURCH IS SPEAKING STRONGLY TO GOA ON GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND ESPECIALLY OVER MURDERS OF PRIESTS. CHURCH IS AWARE THAT AT LEAST FIRST FIVE PRIESTS WERE KILLED BY MEMBERS OF POLICE, AND WE KNOW THAT CHURCH MADE DIRECT ACCUSATION OF THIS TO MINISTER OF INTERIOR AFTER FIRST KILLINGS. IN PUBLIC, CHURCH IS TAKING MUCH MORE CAUTIOUS LINE, OBVIOUSLY IN BELIEF THAT OPEN CONFRONTATION WITH GOA WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. CHAPLIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, MURDER, DEMARCHE, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BUENOS04875  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760289-0389  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Subject:** CHURCH LEADERS CALL ON PRESIDENT VIDELA  
**TAGS:** SCUL, SHUM, PINT, AR, (VIDELA, JORGE RAFAEL), (ARAMBURU, CARDINAL), (PRIMATESTA, CARDINAL)  
**To:** STATE  
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